



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: July 17, 2012
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Derecho Updates from Building and Development Services - Inspections were carried out by the building official on Saturday, June 30 after the Derecho storm hit Fredericksburg on June 29. The following properties were among the most severely damaged:

- 1430 Franklin Street apartment building (tenants also lost two cars)
- 713 Lee Avenue (porch damage)
- 1013 Jill's Place (roof and deck damage)
- 924 Grove Avenue (roof damage)
- 636 Pelham Street (roof damage)

Derecho Updates from Parks, Recreation & Public Facilities - Public Facilities personnel responded to assess damage to city facilities caused by the Derecho storm. Power outages were reported to Dominion Power and fire alarm systems were checked at all facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department is tracking all repair costs for possible claims to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

- The Rappahannock Regional Library sustained damage when a large tree from the adjacent property fell onto the first story annex roof. Public Facilities contracted the tree removal and is coordinating flashing and brick repairs.
- Shingles were blown off the kayak storage building at Motts Run Reservoir Park and they have since been replaced by the Special Projects unit.
- The Waste Water Treatment Plant sustained damage to the chain link fence at three locations from fallen trees and limbs. Quotes are being obtained for these repairs.
- Memorial Park, Hurkamp Park, and Old Mill Park had tree loss and tree damage. Park Maintenance crews have brought all parks back in operation but cleanup continues.

Derecho Updates from Public Works - Public Works continues its operations in recovery from the June 29 Derecho event. This effort primarily involves the collection and

disposal of tree debris from City trees damaged or completely destroyed by the storm and from private property of residents. Public Works issued a press release shortly after the weather event, advising residents that tree debris associated with the storm would be collected at no charge if placed at the curb by July 15. The recovery effort will continue for several weeks and will include:

- removal of City trees so severely damaged by the storm that they can't be saved;
- reconstruction of sidewalk and curb in a small number of areas where street trees uprooted and damaged the sidewalk/curb; and
- preparation of an inventory of City trees severely damaged/destroyed by the storm, so that replacement trees may eventually be planted.

Temporary Public Restrooms – The temporary public restroom facility is located at Riverfront Park and was in operation for the July 4th Heritage Festival. The facility will continue to serve as the replacement Visitor Center public restroom during the renovation of the Visitor Center for the new public restroom location. The current Visitor Center restrooms are closed and salvage activities began on July 16 for usable equipment and fixtures.

Energy Retrofit at Waste Water Treatment Plant – Siemens Corporation began a lighting retrofit of the Waste Water Treatment plant on July 16. This \$74,677 project is funded 100% by a federal grant administered by the George Washington Regional Commission known as "Home Improvement with Energy Star". Although focused on participating regional residential home energy improvements, the grant program had a balance at the end of the funding cycle that afforded participating local governments the opportunity to submit grant requests for needed facility improvements that were project ready. This project will be completed by the end of July, 2012. Some resulting benefits of this project are an improved visual environment for the facility and grounds and a projected total annual savings of over \$17,600.

Technician Training – Technician Timothy Walker with Parks, Recreation, & Public Facilities is currently in the first of three Siemens courses to obtain the designation of Master Operator of the Siemens Apogee system.

Fire Department Awarded Grants – The Fire Department was recently awarded two grants from the Office of Emergency Medical Services to purchase a new ambulance and twenty Automated External Defibrillators. The approval of this grant allows the Fire Department to expand the AED program with placement of the life-saving devices in police and sheriff's vehicles, UMW police vehicles, and additional locations in city buildings.

FY 2012 Financial Notes and Trends – Fiscal Year 2012 ended on June 30, 2012. The City is still receiving invoices and revenues for financial activity that took place during FY 2012. The City will be making accrual entries on FY 2012 revenues and expenditures through August 15, and it is too soon yet to provide a comprehensive update on FY 2012

activities. Staff notes some very positive financial trends for the City for FY 2012 and based on current trends, the City will end the year with a positive balance.

- *Meals Tax* – The City's meals tax receipts have been very positive for FY 2012. Meals tax receipts grew year-over-year by 8.7% in FY 2011, and in FY 2012 the total receipts grew an additional 6%. The total revenue for the end of the year in FY 2012 should be around \$9.37 million, and should provide a significant source of surplus at the close of the year that the City will be able to program for current or future capital needs.
- *Sales Tax* – The City's sales tax collections have stabilized after a significant decline in the FY 2007-2009 time period. The City will receive the final month of sales tax receipts for FY 2012 in August, but with eleven months collected the sales tax receipts appear that they will grow year-over-year by approximately 1.5% and will end the year at approximately \$10.2 million.
- *General Fund Expenditure Trends* – As noted, the City is still in the process of paying June invoices and clearing encumbrances. However, the City has a strong balance remaining in the Contingency account - \$458,350 – and the overall expenditure level should be well underneath the General Fund appropriation limit.

Tactical Rappel Training – On July 11-13, nineteen officers from eight different law enforcement agencies participated in tactical rappel training hosted by the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. The course was taught by Fredericksburg Police Lieutenant William Hallam. The first two days of the program were conducted in the training room at police headquarters and on the rappel tower located behind the building. On the third day of instruction, the students tested their skills by rappelling down the outside walls and interior stairwells of the downtown parking garage. Some of the training was [recorded on video](#) and published on fredericksburg.com.



EDA Sets FY 2013 Budget Priorities - The Economic Development Authority has refocused its grant priorities in light of a one-third reduction in its bond fee income for Fiscal Year 2013. The EDA's total budget is \$186,000, down from \$279,000 last year. The EDA's top two priorities are continuation of the façade improvement matching grant program with a \$40,000 budget allocation for downtown and the Princess Anne Street and Lafayette Boulevard gateways into the downtown, and a newly created Opportunity Fund with a \$58,650 budget. Among the potential uses of the Opportunity Fund are start-up assistance for Main Street and incentive grants for business attraction, retention and expansion.